Internet Safety

Emails

If you use your email regularly, you've probably had more than your fair share of spam. Some are more malicious than others.

- Many will ask you to forward the email to your friends, offering free gifts or appealing for a charitable cause or petition.

- This sort of hoax email will allow spammers to collect email addresses and sell them to other spam businesses.

- If you suspect you have received a hoax email, don't send it on.

- If you want to check an email, Snopes, McAfee and Symantec, experts on internet security, all have information online.

- 'Phishing' emails are usually more malicious and will request your personal information (usernames, passwords and the like). Often, they will put you under a time pressure, for example: 'If you do not respond in 24 hours then your account will be shut down'.

- Banks and other companies will never ask for your password so do not be fooled by realistic logos and slogans. If you are unsure, contact the company directly and not by following a link or calling a number provided on the email.

- Check the source email address of any sender: for instance, someone could call themselves Lloyds Bank even though it's a private individual. You can sometimes tell because the address looks weird: British Airway instead of British Airways, or e-bay instead of ebay. If the English and grammar seems wrong, follow your instinct and don't reply or click on anything. If you are suspicious, contact the right company to check.

- Companies should never ask for a full password or security question via email.

Being aware of the dangers is half the battle. Although internet crime is relatively rare, it is increasing and there is little sense in making yourself an easy target.

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Internet
safety guide

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Internet Safety
Tips and advice

The use of the internet has spread far beyond the confines of the office and is now an equal part of our lives at work and at home. Accelerated by the use of social networking sites, emails and blogs, the internet has blurred the distinction between our public and private lives, as we share more information about ourselves than ever before. The benefits the internet has brought us are undeniable: rapid, world wide communication, entertainment and access to a vast amount of information. It's quite easy to forget this, however, when you've been smothered by the media's scaremongering. Hopefully our tips and advice will help you to improve your safety and show that there's no need for anyone to stop enjoying the web.

Online shopping, for books, technology and clothes, for Christmas, birthdays and anniversaries, has found itself a worldwide fan base. Particularly in a small place like the Falkland Islands, it's nice to have a little more choice. The downside is that keeping your money safe and secure needs a little more thought than buying on the high street:

- If you are paying by credit or debit card, do not enter any of your details unless there is a padlock in the bottom right corner of your browser or address bar. Also check the address begins with 'https://'. If the site makes you feel uneasy or you doubt its authenticity, don't use it.

- If you are using electronic payment, use a well-known firm. If you want to be sure that this is the 'real' site, always type the website address yourself rather than following a link.

- On any occasion when you need to create a password, aim for a minimum of 7 characters, including upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. Avoid dictionary words or anything that is closely related to you or your interests that someone could easily guess, e.g. the name of your favourite sports team, date of birth or company name. Don't recycle your passwords and ensure you change it regularly.

- Set up separate email address when you register to a new site. That way, if you're bombarded with spam, you can just delete everything in your inbox or shut down the account. Setting up an email account is quick, easy and free with a lot of providers.

- Parental controls can be set up in most routers or computers, with just a small amount of research - just Google and see which you prefer.

Internet Safety
Social networking

Social networking has been a favourite topic in the recent panic about online safety. Its popularity with such a wide demographic and the quantity of information that we share about ourselves in our comments, photos and profiles, has made them an easy target for cyber criminals. Since you will have read about the risks over and over, we'll spare you and offer some advice instead (because if you're anything like us, you're already hopelessly addicted):

- Social networking sites give safety information out on the home page.

- Do not feel pressured to supply any personal information on your profile, particularly your date of birth, phone number or location. These are the most useful bits of information to a cyber criminal so set your profile on private or leave them off completely.

- Remember that when you are posting photos, particularly of your home, school or workplace, you are giving away information that someone might use against you. This might sound far-fetched, but if your status the following week tells the world about your holiday to Australia in 10 days time, you've just given the world an invite to your empty house.

- Remember that you can never remove anything from the internet – even if you remove it from your wall or blog, there will still be a trace of it somewhere: there is no way of permanently deleting anything in the internet's history.

- With a right click of their mouse, anyone can copy your pictures. Before posting a photo, status or comment, ask yourself how you would feel if your boss saw it. Gone are the days of sending one private photo in the post – today's copies are not only submitted to the public arena, but are limitless in number and prey to Photoshop.

- Set Facebook profile as private and set posts to friends of friends rather than public.